N-36

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Attention: Harold Weisberg, Louis Ivon, Gary Sanders.

M E M O R A N D U M

March 20, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: STEPHEN JAFFE, Investigator

RE: MRS. LILLIAN HELBLING, Interview regarding subject of one DR. SALVADORE RENE COLLS, Anti-Castro Cuban

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BURTON SUGGESTED TO ME THAT DR. COLLS WAS SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH

On February 11, 1968 while I accompanied Harold Weisberg to a radio interview on KPFK-FM Radio Station in Los Angeles, THE ELIOT MINTZ SHOW, I received a call from a woman, MISS LILLIAN HELBLING . She said that she had information regarding a California resident, one DR. SALVADORE RENE COLLS which she felt might be pertinent to the investigation our office was conducting in the Kennedy Assassination. She said that she would be glad to furnish all the information regarding DR. COLLS and would give us the names of many persons who could verify her story. Whether or not this man was actually involved in some way, she could not say. I made arrangments to meet her the following Thursday..

On Thursday, February 15, 1968, I met with MISS LILLIAN HELBLING, at Bob Burns Restaurant in Santa Monica,California . Our coversation lasted from 7 P.M. until 12 Midnight. In a very well thought out presentation MISS HELBLING related the following information to me:

In the early part of 1962 MISS HELBLING along with another woman, MISS BETTY BURNETTE,currently of Beaumont, Calif., was at a restaurant Palm Springs, California. The two women were there in the bar waiting out a rainstorm. They eventually joined two men at another table. One of them was DR. SALVADORE RENE COLLS (he described his last name as an "Americanized" version of a Cuban name) and another man, a resident of NEW ORLEANS. His name is still a "mental block" to MISS HELBLING. She is trying to find

out what his name is from friends and will tell me at our next conversation. She said she thought it might be LARRY DAVIS or LOUIS DAVIS, OR LAWRENCE BERNARD. I suggested several names and the name BERNARD struck her as a definite possibility.

Subsequent to this meeting she became a close friend of DR. COLLS and an infrequent dinner date of the other man. She said that the man from New Orleans came to visit DR. COLLS once in a while, usually in Palm Springs. This man stayed at DR. COLLS house and would visit unexpectedly.

MISS HELBLING stated that DR. COLLS practiced at a clinic in Indio, Calif. at 4507, Towne Ave. (Phone: 347-1133) This is very close to Palm Springs. He also practiced at a similar clinic in Van Nuys, California, at 6900 Van Nuys Blvd. (Phone: 785-3111). DR. COLLS was married to a woman of Russian decent, VILMA, who had been previously married to an Irishman.

MISS HELBLING was a hotel manager in Palm Springs at various different hotels, one of which was the Desert Leisure, 277 E. Stevens Rd., Palm Springs, California. She resided here during the Summer of 1962. She also lived in Los Angeles during part of that year.

MISS HELBLING described DR. COLLS as a man of average height about 6 ft.; Medium to Heavy build, Latin features, Moustache and she identified him as the man in the photograph of SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH which I showed her among many other photos. She said if it was not him it would have to be his twin and said that she has a photo of DR. COLLS which she will give me.

Essentially MISS HELBLING told me the following important facts about DR. COLLS:

He had taken part in the BAY OF PIGS INVASION as a medic and was arrested on the day after the invasion (that would be about April 18, 1961). His photograph was published on the front page of a MIAMI, FLA. newspaper regarding a story about that arrest.

She said DR. COLLS had told her that his house in Van Nuys and his house in Palm Springs were owned by a Dallas, Texas attorney. This, he told her, in answer to her question of why he didn't get a mortgage on one of his houses because he often complained to her about not having enough money. DR. COLLS said that he'd lost all his money in the Bay of Pigs Invasion, including a boat which he had paid for for a raid.

DR. COLLS often spoke angrily about "that son of a bitch Kennedy, he double-crossed us in the invasion." He made other comments which MISS HELBLING quoted as follows: "We made a mistake, we should have killed Kennedy. He won't live to see the end of the term. Whoever double crosses me I never forget. We had boats and he was supposed to give us air cover." She said that he told her many of his friends had been killed in the invasion. "He deserves to be killed, and we'll kill him."

DR. COLLS told MISS HELBLING that he had lived in Miami, New York, Dallas and New Orleans before coming to California.

He told her that his Anti-Castro group had been trained by the CIA and was called (She could not remember exactly) either the Cuban Revolutionary Counsel or (after I suggested the name) the Cuban Revolutionary Front. She was sure about the words "Cuban Revolutionary."

MISS HELBLING said that at his house in Van Nuys he had a garage which was always closed and he never placed his car inside. He also had two immense refrigerators in a back room of that house. On several occassions when she would visit him at the house, he was in the company of young boys always of Cuban decent. The young Cuban boys drove to his house in a truck and would sometimes spend the night there. He said they just slept on the floor. When I asked her if she thought he might be a homosexual she said he very definitely might be because he spoke with disdain about women in general, and beat his wife Vilma on

several occassions. She recalled this because VILMA would call MISS HELBLING at times, after she had been beaten and ask that she come over to console and help her. This MISS HELBLING did and found VILMA often with black eyes or bad bruises.

In the Summer of 1962 MISS HELBLING took DR. COLLS to a party at the house of MRS. VIRGINIA FIELD, 1136 Eliot Rd., Paradise, Calif. (at that time she was living near this address in Cabazon, Calif. but this is her present address). At that party two men from Mexico got into a discussion with COLLS about drugs, including LSD and others, they asked if COLLS could supply them with drugs for sale and he agreed to the surprise of MISS HELBLING. In that conversation he revealed to MISS HELBLING that he and his wife both took drugs.

In 1962 DR. COLLS made three trips to Dallas, Texas, by car according to MISS HELBLING'S recollection.

On one occassion, MISS HELBLING recalls that at DR. COLLS house in Palm Springs, there were two visitors. A woman and a man and their little girl (All Cubans) They had just come from Cuba, through Mexico. They were escorted my a young man about 21 or 22 yrs. old. He was about 5'6, light built, very pale, dark hair with unusually sharp pointed side-burns. He sat in the corner of the room while DR. COLLS and the couple spoke in Spanish. He did not say a word and didn't seem to understand the language. At one point DR. COLLS told her that he (the young man) was their escort. This young man was American and MISS HELBLING says that she remembers him as faintly resembling LEE HARVEY OSWALD according to the pictures she has seen of him. After about a 3/4 hour discussion the DR. placed the couple (the man had been a school teacher in Cuba) on a bus bound for Dallas, Texas. The young man went with them. MISS HELBLING particularly remembers this because she thought it was cruel for them to have to get on a bus for the long trip to Dallas immediately after their arrival from another long trip from Mexico. But DR. COLLS was adamant about their quick departure.

On another occassion during 1962 MISS HELBLING was taken to dinner by DR. COLLS at a restaurant in Los Angeles. This restaurant was entirely run and served by Cubans. She said it was located on either Beverly Blvd. or Melrose Blvd. It was called, "The Mexican ----------"Restaurant, she could not remember the last word of the name. At their arrival DR. COLLS was greeted extremely warmly and they were escorted to a special table in the back of the restaurant. The Doctor introduced several of the waiters, all of them Cubans. He would say, "This is ---- ---- he was a bank owner in Cuba before Castro was in power." Others were farm owners or prominent citizens in one way or another. The Maitre D' was introduced as the "General" and was supposedly the leader of the Doctor's Anti-Castro invasion group. MISS HELBLING volunteered the fact that during this dinner the name of ARCACHA was mentioned. She could not recall if the waiter called DR. COLLS by this name or if he had called someone else by that name.(At no time during this interview with MISS HELBLING did I ever offer the name of SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH,or any part of that name.)

MISS HELBLING said that as they left the restaurant, one of the Cuban waiters took DR. COLLS aside to discuss something. After a few words DR. COLLS said "No. I don't want to get involved. I lost my money in the invasion and I'm through. You're getting in over your heads on this one." As they left the restaurant she asked the DR. what they wanted. He said that they all fighting amongst themselves and that they were planning something much bigger than trying to kill Castro. She said he was very upset by what he had heard.

MISS HELBLING gave me the following information regarding DR. COLLS' friend from NEW ORLEANS. She described him as

Tall, over 6 ft.
Medium to heavy build
Grey, Blond-Brown hair
Green Eyes
52-54 years old
Extremely well dressed

Characteristics: Enigmatic. Quiet although well-spoken, very intelligent, Not aggressive

This man was with DR. COLLS at the time when MISS HELBLING and MISS BURNETTE first met him in the restaurant (bar) in Palm Springs. At that time MISS HELBLING had become interested in this man because he was rather good looking to her. She was not at all interested in COLLS because he was unshaven and dressed in a sloppy fashion in contrast to the man who she thought was named DAVIS, BERNARD or LAWRENCE. This man was not really responsive to her interest and DR. COLLS made the comment "He doesn't like girls." This is not necessarily true of the man soley on the basis of this incident because MISS HELBLING is no prize. However, further description of this man is supportive of the possibility of his being homosexual. She said that he was very well groomed, and wore extremely expensive clothes. He told her that he owned mines in either Arizona or Nevada. She could not remember which and when she asked him what he mined he would not tell her. DR. COLLS told her that he manufactured guns and ammunition, primarily ammunition, including, she said, small bombs. In the course of one of her conversations with this man he also mentioned that he manufacture ammunition.

MISS HELBLING stated that he drove a new car, either a Lincoln or a Cadillac and that it was always very dirty as if it had been driven a long distance.

MISS HELBLING stated that our office would not have a great deal of trouble tracing this man's identity. He told her that he had been very prominent in NEW ORLEANS until he was jailed on a charge of manslaughter in a traffic accident. He said that he'd been framed. He argued that homosexuality was sometimes necessary such as in the case of prisoners. The discussion was mostly of homosexuality and he defended it strongly. She said that this particular case was covered well in the press and he's lost his prestigious standing in the society circles there because of the entire incident. She had the impression that it occured in the late 1950's.

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The last thing MISS HELBLING said that she remembered about this man was that he'd told her he had worked in South America with an American Army Colonel. MISS HELBLING said she will check all the information with her acquaintances of those years and will report to me any further details. I told her that we would very much like to know this man's name and she restated that the names LAWRENCE or LOUIS DAVIS, or BERNARD were all she could recall. She knows she can find out through one of the friends listed below. I showed her a photograph of CLAY SHAW and she could not identify him as this man. She did ask to see a younger photo of SHAW. I told her I would try to get one.

She said that she broke off all association with DR COLLS in late 1962 when she had a bad automobile accident. She asked for his help immediately and he attended her for about two weeks. Instead of sending her to a hospital, he gave her shots of morphine and told her to stay in bed at her home. He said that she was not seriously injured and that he could cure her. He said that he desparately needed the money for treating her and he would not be able to attend her in the local hospital. MISS HELBLING allowed this to go on for two weeks until she was in great pain and sought the help of another doctor. The insurance company, HARTFORD INSURANCE GROUP (She showed me the relevant papers including the DR. COLLS bill) which handled the case found that DR. COLLS was not listed with the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. There was no record anywhere to corroborate the fact that COLLS was an accredited physician. Furthermore he had charged excessive fees for "housecalls" when often he had just come over to her house to discuss irrelevant matters.

Out of curiosity, on January 22nd, 1968, MISS HELBLING telephoned the clinic in Van Nuys where DR COLLS worked. The nurse said that DR COLLS had died suddenly of a heart attack in November of 1967. I called this clinic on March 19, 1968 and the nurse supported this information saying that he'd passed away and that his wife, VILMA, still lived in Palm Springs. I will follow all

I have spoken to MISS HELBLING and she is going to go to Palm Springs in the next two weeks to check some of her friends. She promises to call about the name and the photograph of DR COLLS this week.

The names of other acquaintances of DR COLLS are:

1) Dr. Ray S. Baddour
121 South Palm Canyon Dr.
Palm Springs, Calif.

Residence:
333 Stevens Rd.
Palm Springs, Calif.
(714) 324-9627

This man was acquainted with Colls but disliked him.

2) Miss Eve Russel
660 Calle Palo Fierro
Palm Springs, Calif.

3) Mr. Joe Fay and Mrs. Faia Fay
6967 Campus Dr. Apt. B
Buena Park, Calif. (Don't Contact until after MISS HELBLING has talked to them.)

4) Miss Sophie Baum
Miss Virginia Field
Mr. Robert Le Master
Miss Betty Burnette
Monette

MISS HELBLING said that she is going to contact all of these people and asks that I wait until after she has questioned them to investigate any further. I will do this until further notice.